AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 47, and amend claims 24, 34-37, 40, and 42- 45 as follows and add new claims 48-51.

24. (twice amended) A process for the isolation and purification of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors from mycelium biomass which comprises:

clarifying a mycelium broth and concentrating the clarified broth to a lower volume,

acidifying the concentrate to a pH value in the range of 4.5 to 7.5, followed by extracting the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor with ethyl acetate;

optionally performing lactonization;

crystallizing the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor from:

i) a water miscible first organic solvent; and

ii) a second organic solvent having limited miscibility with water.

34. (once amended) The process according to claim 24, wherein the water-miscible first organic solvent used in the crystallization step is acetone or a low alkyl alcohol.

35. (once amended) The process according to claim 24, wherein the crystallization step from a water-miscible first organic solvent comprises dissolving the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor in acetone, and then adding water thereto.

36. (twice amended) The process according to claim 24, wherein the crystallization step from a second organic solvent comprises dissolving the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor in said organic solvent at a concentration of 10 to 35 g/L, and removing one-third to three-fourth of said organic solvent.

37. (twice amended) The process according to claim 24, wherein the second organic solvent used in the crystallization step is ethyl acetate.

40. (twice amended) A process for the purification of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors which comprises subjecting the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor to combined crystallization steps, which consist of crystallization from a water-miscible first organic solvent and crystallization from a second organic solvent selected from the group consisting of butanol, isobutanol, amyl alcohol, hexanol, 2-ethylhexanol, benzyl alcohol, cyclohexanol, methylbutyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclohexanone, methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, n-propyl acetate and isopropyl acetate, t-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl acetate, amyl acetate, diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, methylene chloride, chloroform, acetonitrile, and mixtures of these solvents, as final steps to obtain HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors having a purity higher than 99.6%.

42. (once amended) The process according to claim 40, wherein acetone or a low alkyl alcohol is used as the water-miscible organic solvent.

43. (once amended) The process according to claim 40, wherein the crystallization from a water-miscible organic solvent comprises dissolving the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor in acetone, and then adding water thereto.

44. (twice amended) The process according to claim 40, wherein said crystallization from a second organic solvent comprises dissolving the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor in said organic solvent at a concentration of 10 to 35 g/L, and removing one-third to three-fourth of said organic solvent.

45. (twice amended) The process according to claim 40, wherein ethyl acetate is used as the second organic solvent.

48. (new) A process for the isolation and purification of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors from mycelium biomass which comprises:

clarifying a mycelium broth and concentrating the clarified broth to a lower volume,

acidifying the concentrate to a pH value in the range of 4.5 to 7.5, followed by extracting the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor with ethyl acetate;

optionally performing lactonization;

crystallizing the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor from:

i) a water miscible first organic solvent; and

ii) a second organic solvent selected from the group consisting of higher alkyl alcohols, higher alkyl ketones, esters, ethers, chlorinated hydrocarbons, acetonitrile, and mixtures of these solvents.

49. (new) A process for the isolation and purification of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors from mycelium biomass which comprises:

clarifying a mycelium broth and concentrating the clarified broth to a lower volume,

acidifying the concentrate to a pH value in the range of 4.5 to 7.5, followed by extracting the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor with ethyl acetate;

optionally performing lactonization;

crystallizing the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor from:

i) a water miscible first organic solvent; and

ii) a second organic solvent selected from the group consisting of butanol, isobutanol, amyl alcohol, hexanol, 2-ethylhexanol, benzyl alcohol, cyclohexanol, methylbutyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclohexanone, methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, n-propyl, isopropyl acetate, t-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl acetate, amyl acetate, diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, methylene chloride, chloroform, acetonitrile, and mixtures of these solvents.

50. (new) A process for the purification of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors which comprises subjecting the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor to combined crystallization steps, which consist of crystallization from a water-miscible first organic solvent and

crystallization from a second organic solvent selected from the group consisting of higher alkyl alcohols, higher alkyl ketones, esters, ethers, chlorinated hydrocarbons, acetonitrile, and mixtures of these solvents, as final steps to obtain HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors having a purity higher than 99.6%.

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51. (new) A process for the purification of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors which comprises subjecting the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor to combined crystallization steps, which consist of crystallization from a water-miscible first organic solvent and crystallization from a second organic solvent selected from the group consisting of butanol, isobutanol, amyl alcohol, hexanol, 2-ethylhexanol, benzyl alcohol, cyclohexanol, methylbutyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclohexanone, methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, n-propyl and isopropyl acetate, t-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl acetate, amyl acetate, diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, methylene chloride, chloroform, acetonitrile, and mixtures of these solvents, as final steps to obtain HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors having a purity higher than 99.6%.